



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Samantha Allen
(661) 868-2761

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Kern County Jury Finds Javonna Lewis Guilty of Trafficking a Minor
People v. Javonna Leeshay Lewis: Kern County Superior Court Case BF183922A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant human trafficking and sexual assault conviction. On October 29, 2024, a Kern County jury found defendant Javonna Leeshay Lewis guilty of Human Trafficking, Forcible Human Trafficking of a Minor, Forcible Sexual Penetration, Torture, and Pimping of a Minor, as well as enhancements for aggravated kidnapping, great bodily injury, and personal use of a deadly weapon. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Allen.

In December of 2020, Lewis came to Bakersfield from Fresno with her underaged girlfriend (the victim), in order to make the victim work as a prostitute. After five nights of forcing the victim to prostitute, Lewis left for the evening to party with her friends, while ordering the victim to continue “working”. Lewis returned the following morning to find that the victim had gone to sleep rather than work as a prostitute. Lewis became enraged and beat the victim in front of the hotel rooms at the Desert Star Motel. Lewis then drug the victim inside their motel room, where the violence escalated and the victim was sexually assaulted. After approximately 3 hours of abuse, the victim managed to exit the hotel room and seek a ride to the hospital from individuals at the scene. The victim suffered numerous severe injuries and significant blood loss. After the incident, Lewis continued to call the victim while incarcerated in attempts to persuade her to not testify.

While in custody, Lewis also sexually assaulted a female inmate, then threatened her in an attempt to prevent her from testifying.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Human trafficking is a harsh reality in our community, even if it often goes unseen. Our office recognizes the violence and stands firmly committed to putting an end to it. This conviction marks a crucial step in our mission, and we hope it brings hope and encouragement to others enduring similar circumstances.”

Sentencing is scheduled for December 18, 2024, in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court

before the Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich. Lewis faces a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Those experiencing human trafficking are encouraged to contact the Kern County Family Justice Center for assistance. All services are free and there is no appointment necessary. For more information, visit: kcfjc.org.

Jovanna Leeshay:

